

DC
MAXI-SERIES II of 12

AMETHYST

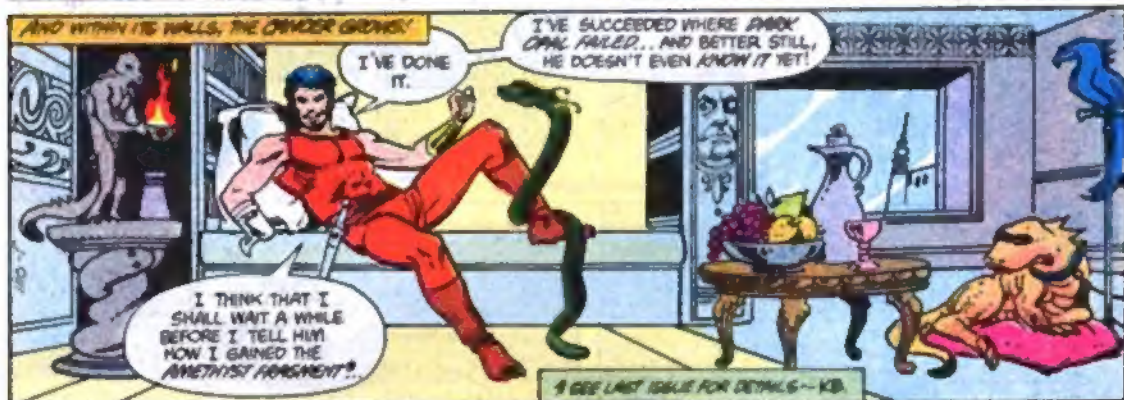
PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD

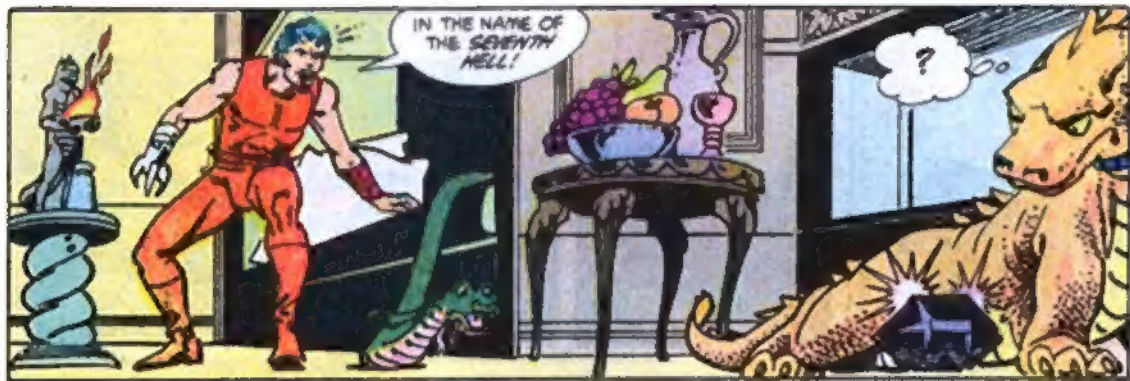
11
75¢
CAN. 95¢
U.K. 25p
MAR. 84
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

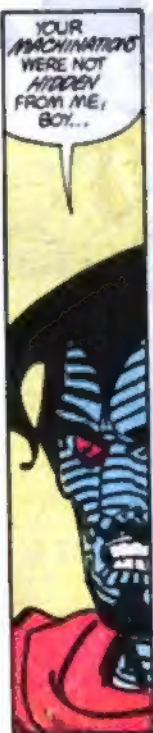


GET
THE NEW TITAN
TITANS
POSTER
BY
GEORGE PEREZ!

GEORGE PEREZ







AMY WINSTON'S NIGHTS WERE FILLED WITH DREAMS -- WITH VISIONS OF A LOST LEGACY! THEN SHE DISCOVERED THAT SHE WAS NO CHILD OF EARTH, BUT THE ORPHANED HEIR TO A MYSTIC THRONE...

AMETHYST

PRINCESS
OF GEMWORLD

THE LAST BATTLE!

THERE IS NO
TURNING BACK, THEN!
TODAY THE DARK
LORD DIES!

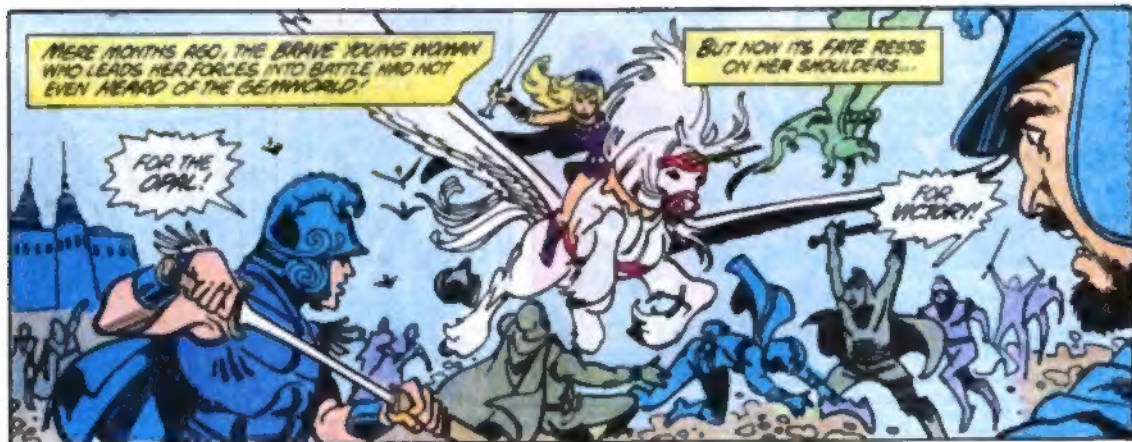
...OR
WE DO!

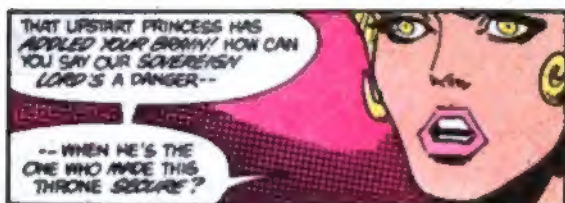
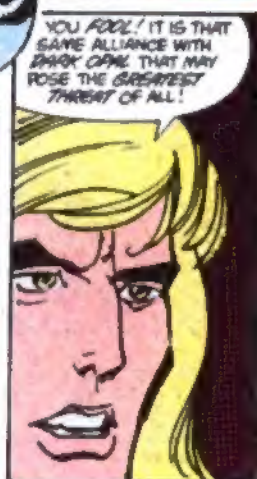
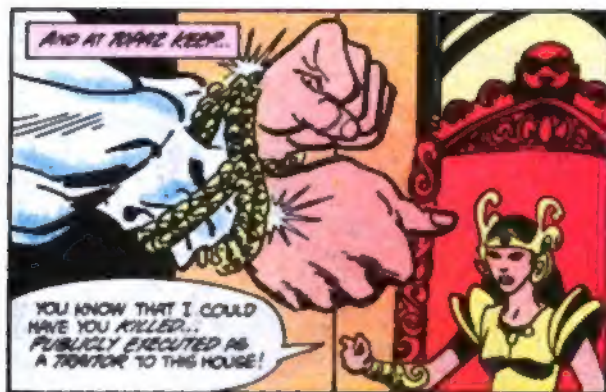
DAN MISHKIN &
GARY COHN
WRITERS
ERNE COLÓN
ARTIST

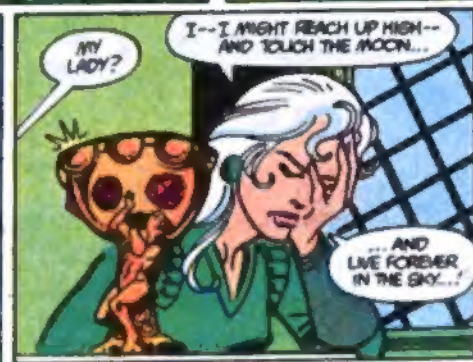
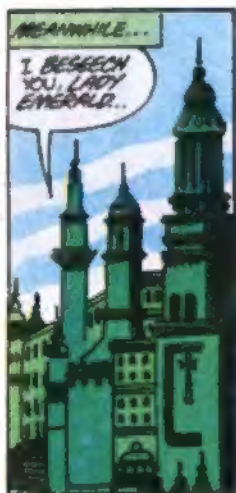
JOHN COSTANEA
LETTERER
TOM ZILKO
COLORIST

KAREN BERGER
EDITOR

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING









AND OUTSIDE FORTRESS OARL, THE FIERCE BATTLE RAGES ON...



...BUT THE LORD OF THE GENIWORLD DOES NOT CHOOSE TO ENTER THE FRY...

...HE DOES NOT LEAD HIS ARM TO THE DEFENDERS OF HIS HOME...



...FOR DARK OARL KNOWS HIS ULTIMATE SUCCESS RESTS DEEP WITHIN THE FORTRESS WALLS AND UNDERGROUND...



HERE!

WHAT OF THE FORGE, SARDONYX?

READY TO BE FIRED!



AND THE BREASTPLATE, SMITH?

PREPARED AS YOU HAVE SPECIFIED, MY LORD! IT AWAITS THE FINAL GEM...



THE AMETHYST!

VICTORY IS IN MY GRASP AND...



DAMN CITRONA! HER MARK UPON MY HAND APPEARS AGAIN!

FOR THAT SHE'LL BE THE FIRST TO DIE!



AND WHO'LL COME AFTER HER AND ALL THE OTHER LORDS AND LADIES?

ME? SARDONYX?



WILL ANYONE BE SAFE ONCE OARL'S GAINED THE POWER OF...

EH? THAT SUDDEEN WIND--!



MIND WELL THE FITTING OF THE STONE, SARDONYX! LET THERE BE NO MISTAKES!

I'LL FIND THE CAUSE OF THIS GALE AND END IT!



AND SOON--

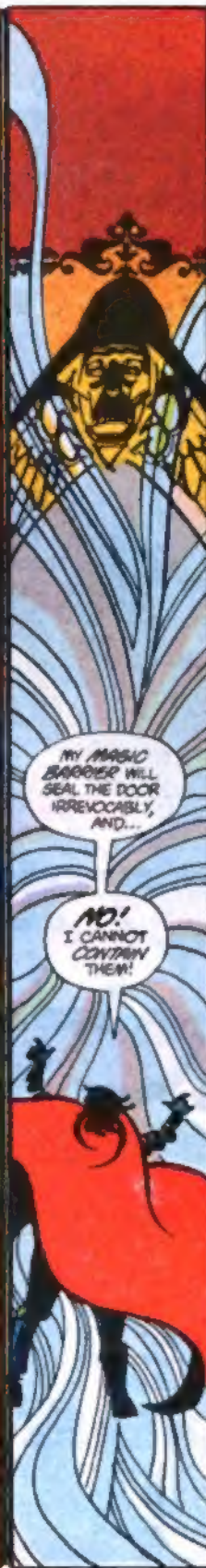
THE WHIRLWIND'S
SOURCE IS HERE--
AT THE DOORWAY TO
THE REALM BETWEEN!

THAT
ELIMINATES
ALL DOUBT AS
TO ITS
SEMPERS!



THE SPELL THAT I
PROCURED TO SUBVERT
THEIR POWER MAY
HAVE WORN BY NOW--

--BUT IF THEY
THINK ME UNPRE-
PARED TO FACE
THEM, THEY ARE
WRONG!



MY MAGIC
BARRIER WILL
SEAL THE DOOR
IRREVOCABLY,
AND...

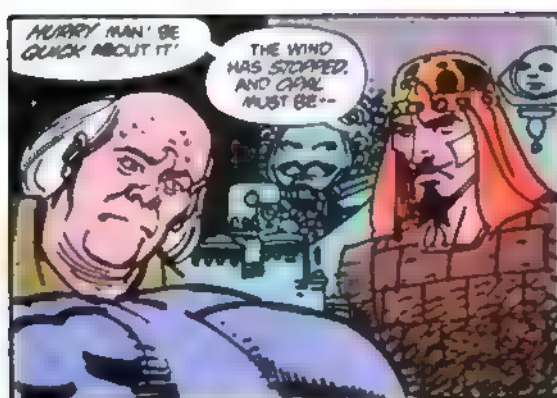
NO!
I CANNOT
CONVINCE
THEM!



YES, I KNOW WE HAD A BARGAIN!
AND I TELL YOU I HELD UP MY END!

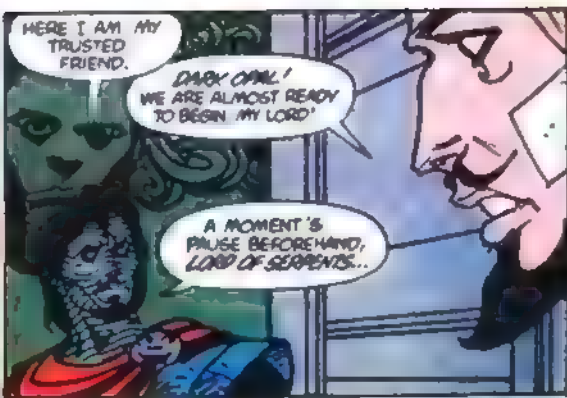
ALL RIGHT! VERY
WELL, IF THAT'S
THE ONLY WAY,
THEN!

COME
WITH ME...



HURRY MAN' BE
QUICK ABOUT IT'

THE WIND
HAS STOPPED.
AND GAIL
WAS NOT HERE --



HERE I AM MY
TRUSTED
FRIEND.

DARK ONE!
WE ARE ALMOST READY
TO BEGIN MY LORD!

A MOMENT'S
PAUSE BEFOREHAND,
LORD OF SERPENTS...

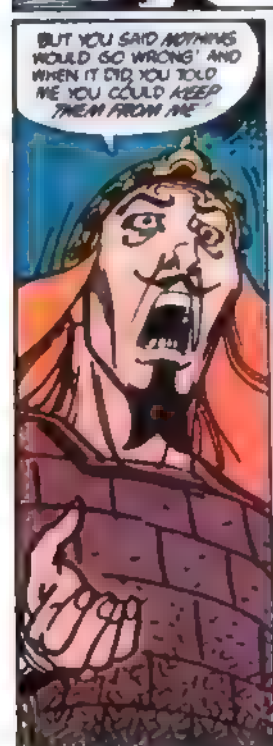


YOU NO DOUBT REMEMBER
THE EMBASSIES OF
WAR

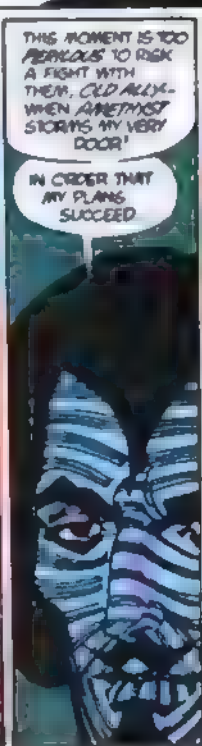
THEY HAVE COME FOR ARBITMENT,
HARRIS FOUND ME IN DEFAULT OF
OUR AGREEMENT!

DEFAULT? BUT
ACCORDING TO THE
CONTRACT, THAT
MEANS...

**YOU,
SADOMIX!**



BUT YOU SAID NOTHING
WOULD GO WRONG' AND
WHEN IT DID YOU TOLD
ME YOU COULD KEEP
THEM FROM ME"



THIS MOMENT IS TOO
PERILOUS TO RISK
A FIGHT WITH
THEM, OLD ALLY.
WHEN ANEIMOST
STORMS MY VERY
DOOR!

IN ORDER THAT
MY PLANS
SUCCEED



THE MEN FROM WASHV MUST
BE APPEALED!

YOU'D HAND ME OVER TO
THEM JUST LIKE THAT?"

CURSE YOU, OAK!
CURSE YOUR BONES,
A THOUSAND TIMES!

TABLE 1

NO

No.

NO:

7

2

五

1

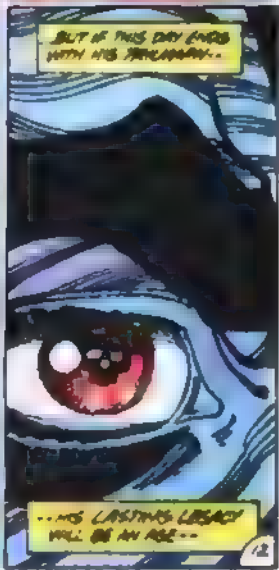
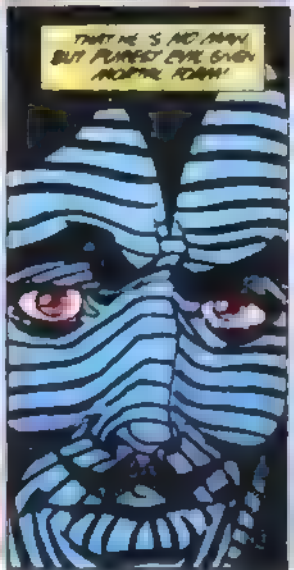
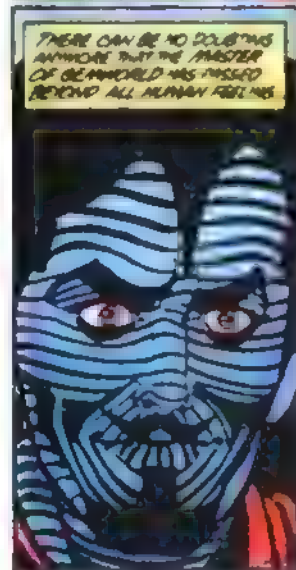
1

1

1

1







--OF CHAOS!

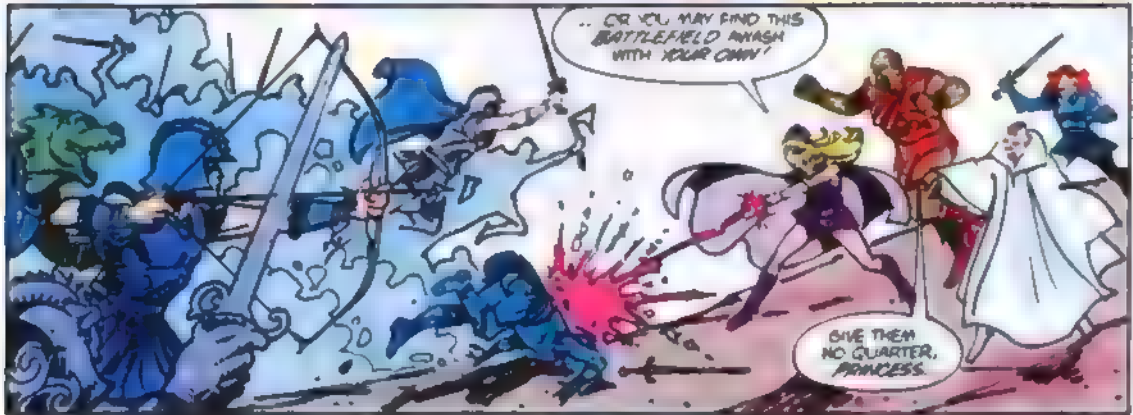
DEATH!



LET THEIR BLOOD FLOW
IN A CRIMSON TIDE!



DON'T BE SO EAGER
FOR BLOOD...



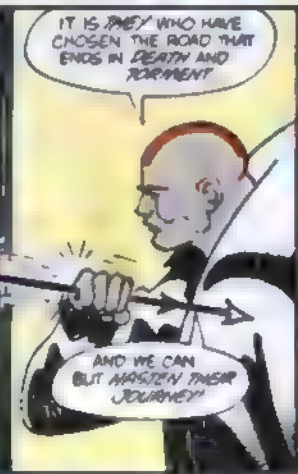
...OR YOU MAY FIND THIS
BATTLEFIELD AWASH
WITH YOUR OWN!

GIVE THEM
NO QUARTER,
PRINCESS.



'UGH!'

FOR THEY'LL
SURELY GRANT
US NONE!



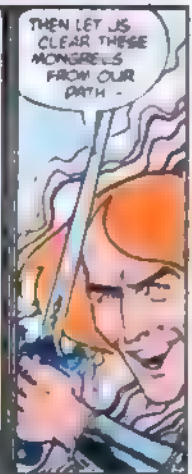
IT IS THEY WHO HAVE
CHOSEN THE ROAD THAT
ENDS IN DEATH AND
TORMENT

AND WE CAN
BUT ACCELERATE THEIR
JOURNEY!



I'D LIKE
TO BE THAT
CONFIDENT

BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN REACHED
THE FORTRESS WALL YET!



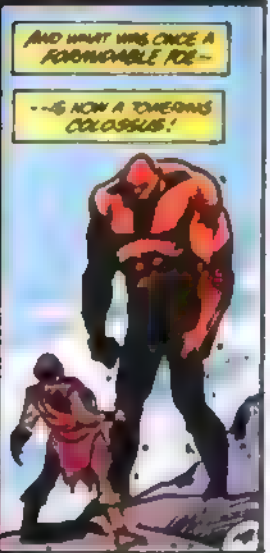
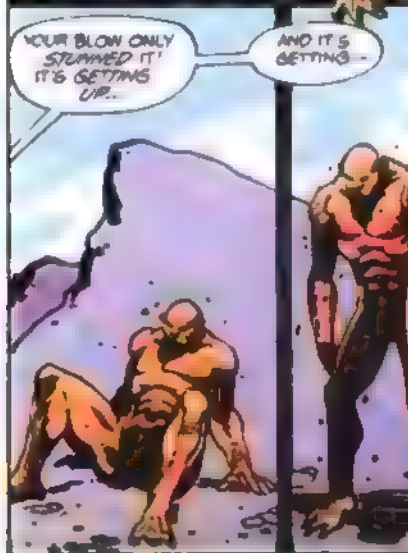
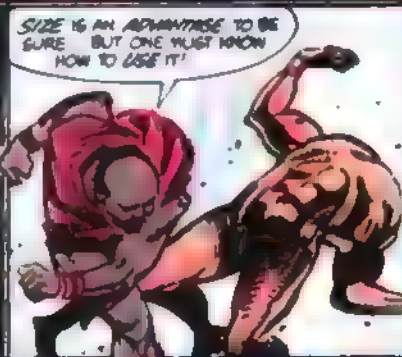
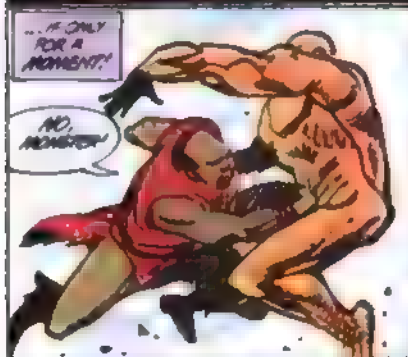
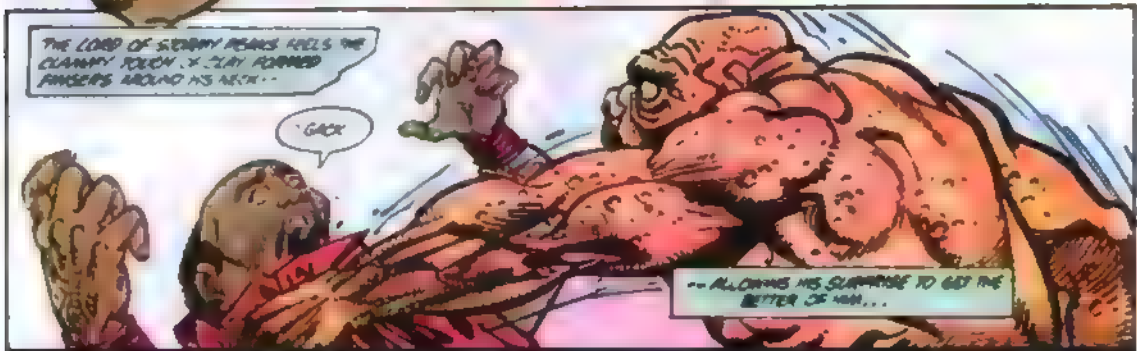
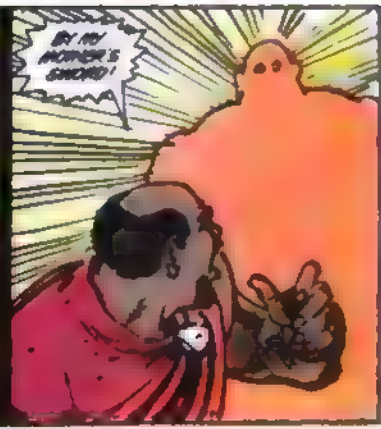
THEN LET US
CLEAR THESE
MONGRELS
FROM OUR
PATH -

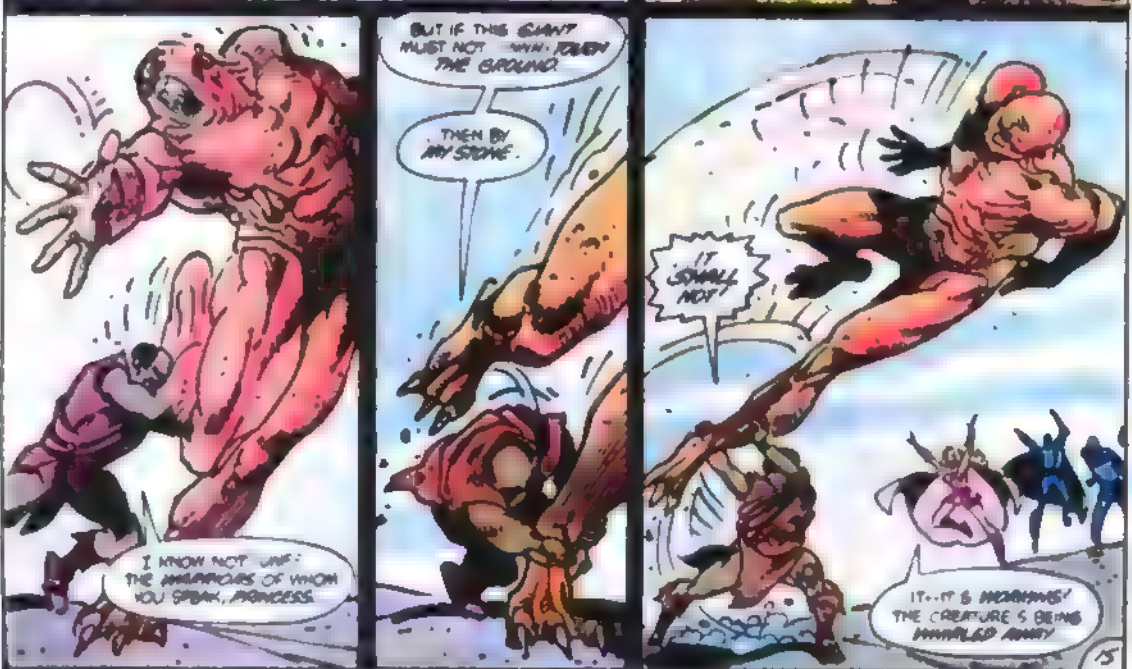
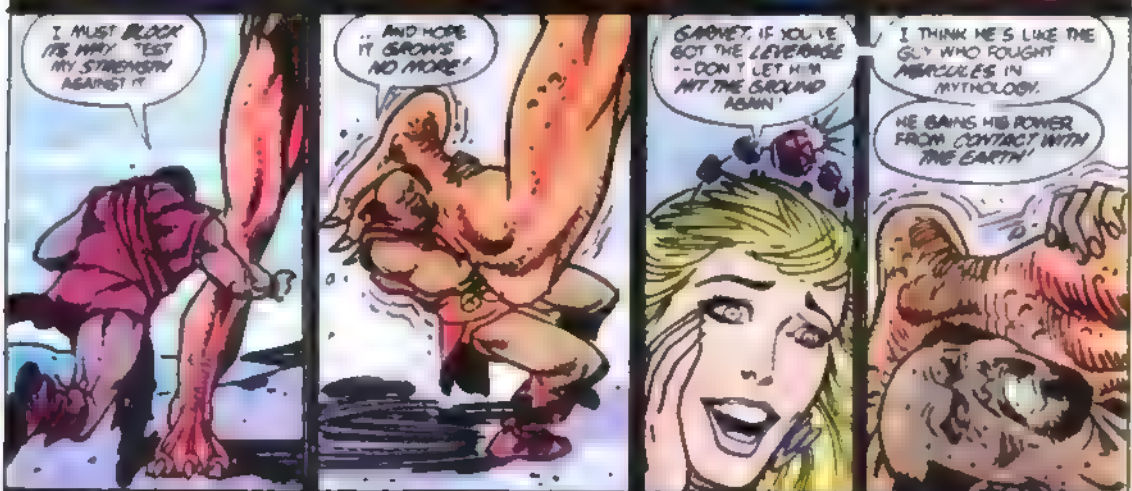
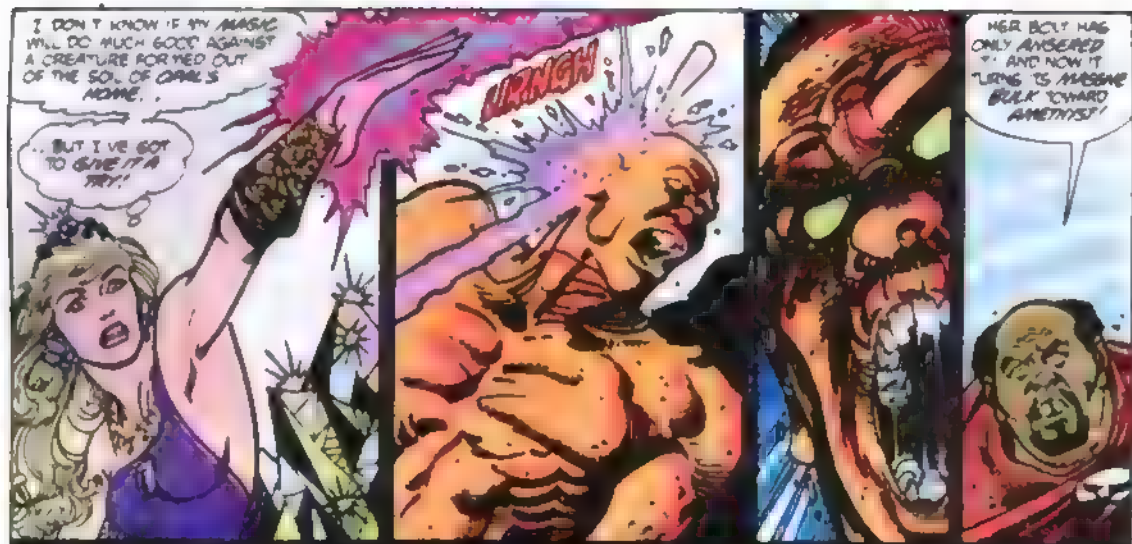


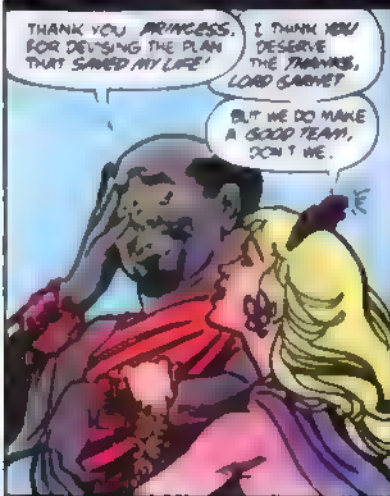
--AND BEARD DARK
OVAL IN HIS DEN!

BUT THE TOUGHEST, MOST RELENTLESS
SOLDIERS ON THE GEMMELD--

--ARE NOT THE ONLY DEFENDERS
AT THE DARK LORD'S COMMAND!



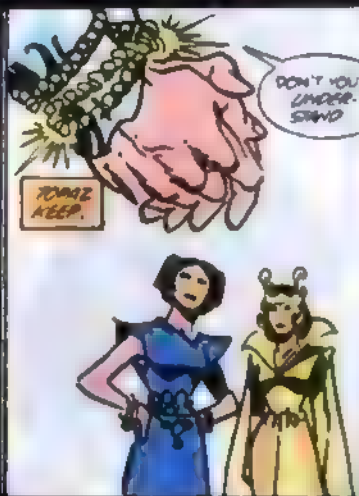




THANK YOU, PRINCESS,
FOR DEVS'ING THE PLAN
THAT SAVED MY LIFE!

I THINK YOU
DESERVE
THE THANKS,
LORD GARNET

BUT WE DO MAKE
A GOOD TEAM,
DON'T WE.



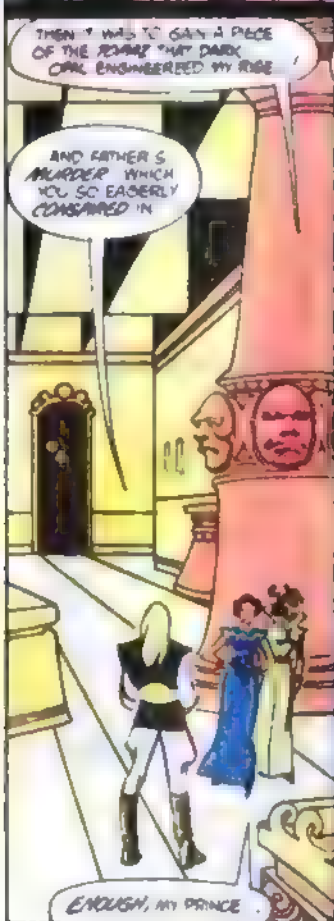
THAT'S
KEEP.

DON'T YOU
UNDER-
STAND



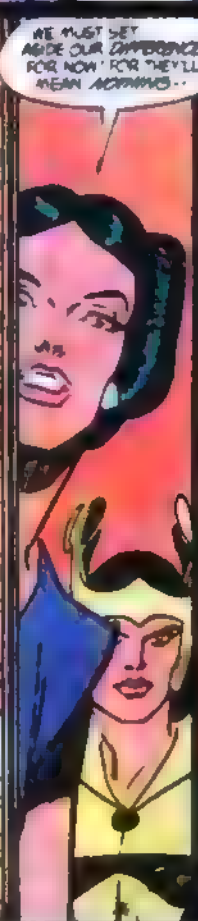
DARK ORAL WILL SOON BE UNDO-
N'TROLLABLE. AND THE GEMSHOULD
BEYOND ALL HOPE OF RESCUE!

THE BEEHIVEPLATE
HE'S CONSTRUCTING--
USING FRAGMENTS
OF EACH ADLER BONE
--WILL GIVE HIM
ABSOLUTE POWER!



THEN I WAS TO GAIN A PECE
OF THE REWARD THAT DARK
ORAL ENGINEERED MY RISE!

AND FATHER'S
MURDER WHICH
YOU SO EAGERLY
CONSIDERED IN



WE MUST SET
ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES
FOR NOW! FOR THEY'LL
MEAN NOTHING...



--WHEN DARK ORAL
INSTITUTE'S HIS REIGN
OF COSMIC MADNESS!



WAIT!

WHERE HAS
CAPTIVELAN
GOT TO?



NOT FOR ARMY--

DO YOU
DETACHED
ME, DID YOU?

B. BUT,
BOSS, I CAN
EXPLAIN.

THE TIME DRAGS
AND SOON NO
ONE WILL CARE
ANY--

ENOUGH, MY PRINCE.



NONE IS NECESSARY! YOU SERVED MY FATHER INSTEAD OF ME...

AND SO...

ARRR-K



I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE BENEATH THE ADORSE WITH SABOTAGE IN MIND!

IT WAS YOU WHO THWARTED MY FIRST ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE BREAKTHROUGH!

THE AMETHYST PRISM VS



SO YOU FIGURED THAT OUT

S-K-R-R-K



OF COURSE IT WAS I YOU AND SARDONYX TREAT ME POORLY ENOUGH RIGHT IS



YOU NEED NEVER BE CONCERNED ABOUT SARDONYX AGAIN



AND HOW INSIGNIFICANT MIGHT I BECOME WERE YOU TO GAIN THE POWER OF --

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAID?



SARDONYX IS-- IS. AND NOW IT'S MY TURN TO BE--

NO



YOU ARE NOT WORTHY THE EFFORT IT WOULD TAKE TO SNUFF YOUR LIFE OUT



BUT THE GRAND CITRINA PLACED UPON ME AS A MARK OF SHAME--

AH-H!



-- MAY BE PASSED ON TO ANOTHER WHOSE SHAME IS GREATER!



WHA WHAT-- HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?



LESS THAN YOU DESERVED PERHAPS BUT FURTHER PUNISHMENT MUST WAIT!

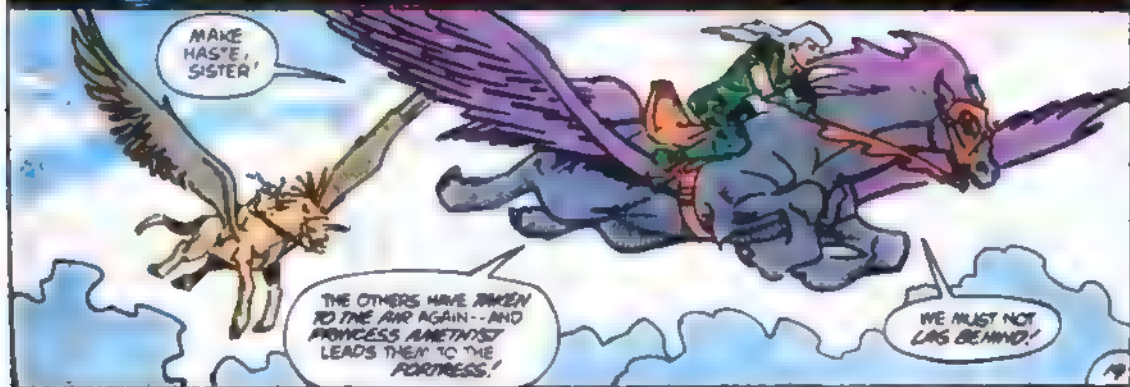
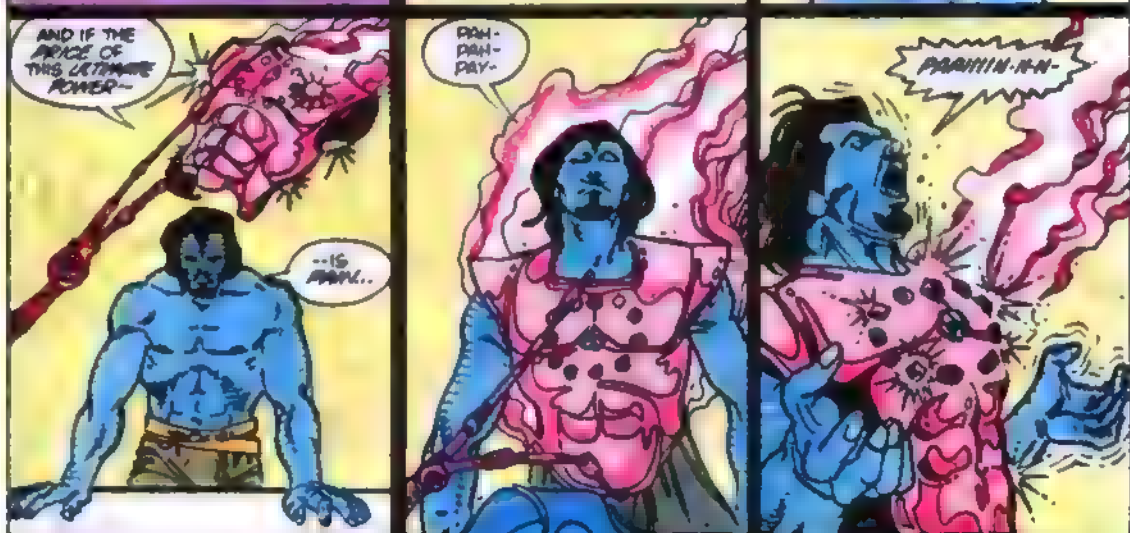
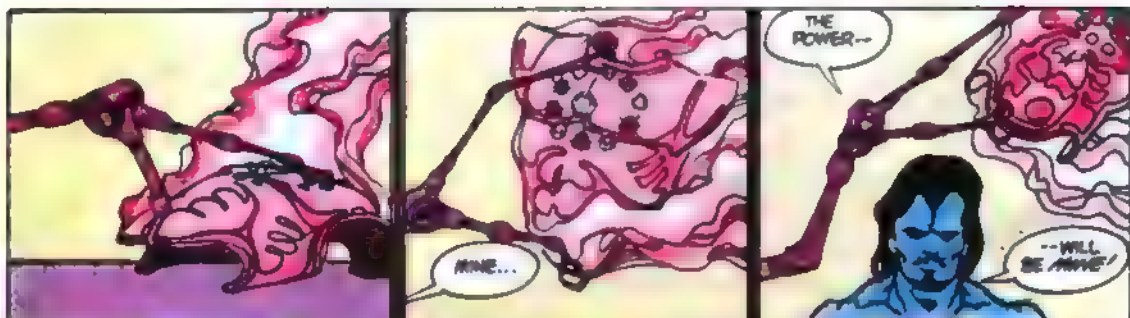
THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE AHEAD--

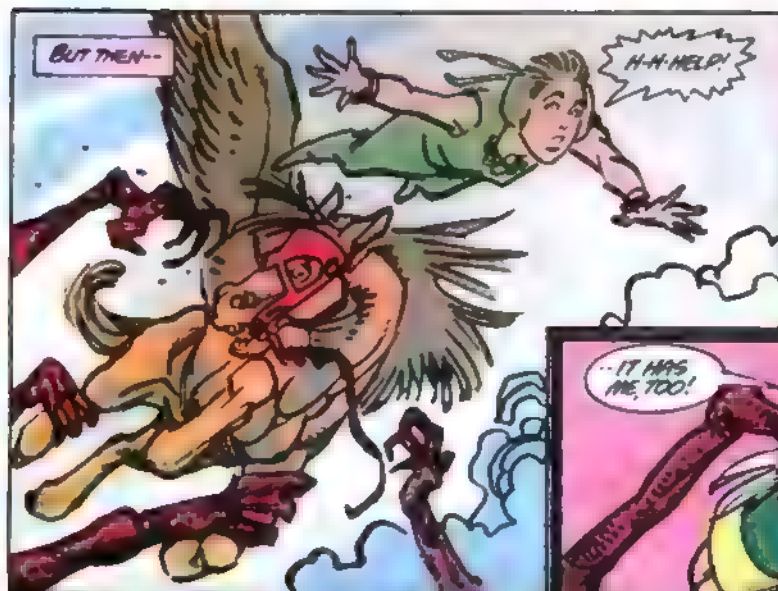
--AND I HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!

17

Continued On Page 18, Coming







BUT THEN--

H-H-HELP!



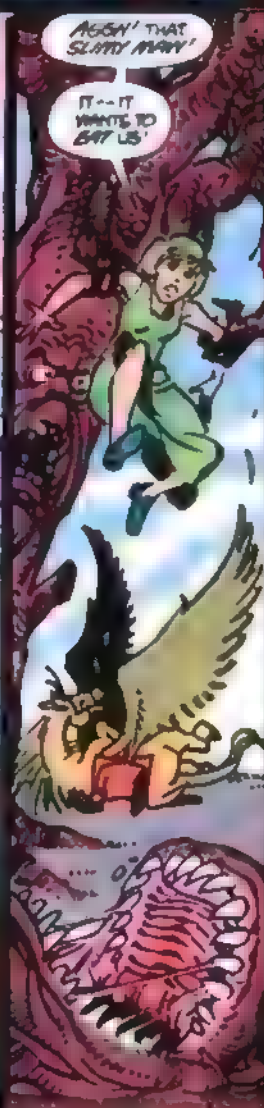
WHAT EVIL SORCERY
IS THIS? IT--



--IT HAS
ME, TOO!

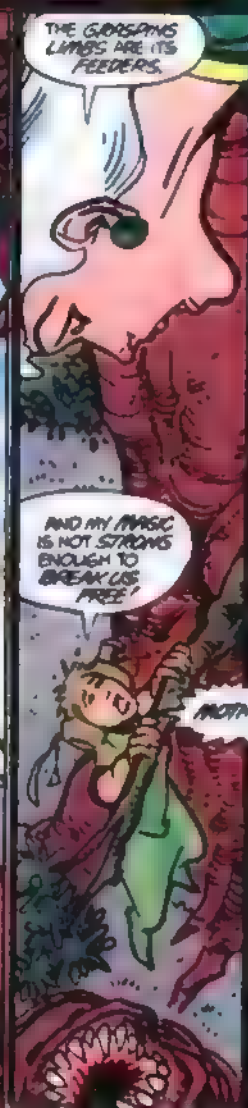


THESE ARMS SEEK TO DROP
US DOWN, BUT FOR WHAT
FULL PURPOSE?



AGGH! THAT
SLIMY MAN!

IT--IT
WANTS TO
EAT US!



THE GORGONS
LINGS ARE ITS
FEEDERS.

AND MY MUSIC
IS NOT STRONG
ENOUGH TO
BREAK US
FREE!

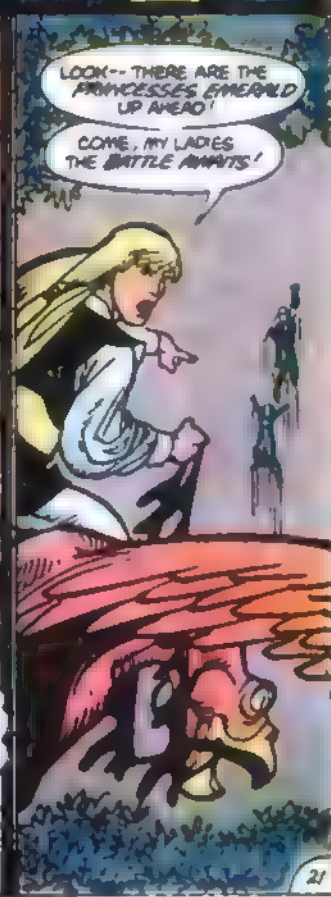
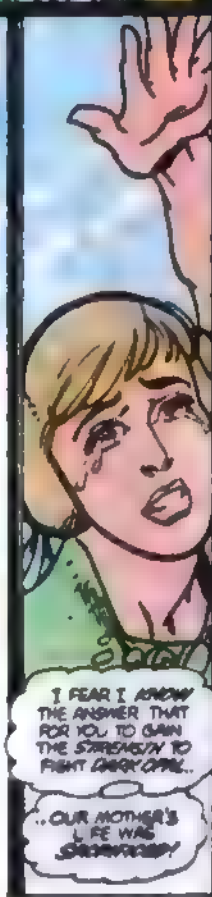
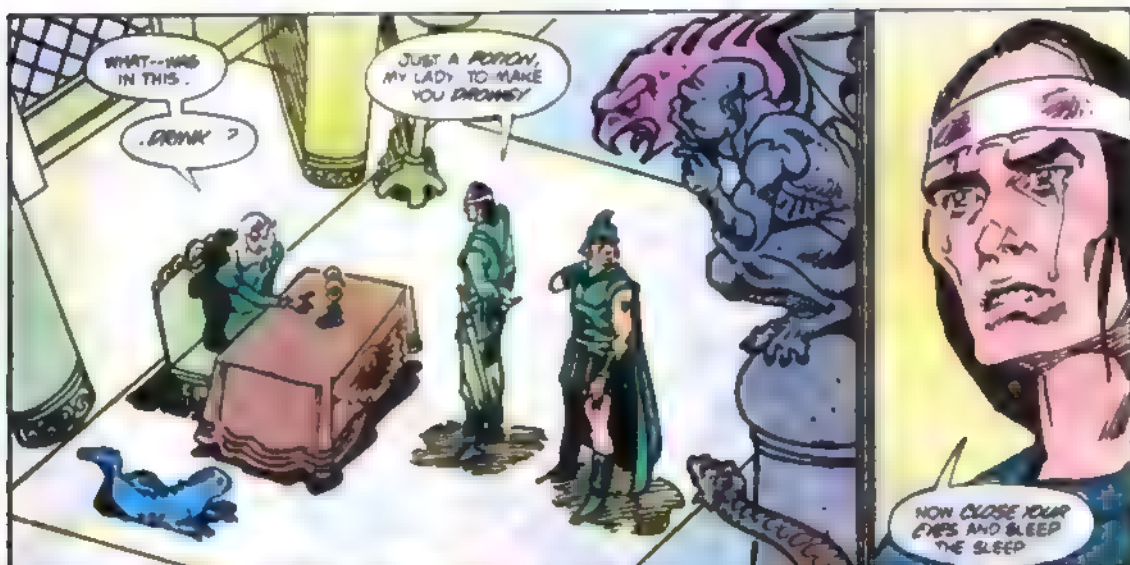
MOTHER!



I THOUGHT

ARLIYAN?
VIZIER?

A
VOICE?



MEANWHILE

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE CONVENTION TRAIL, 1983

I like flying, I really do! (Providing I'm in an airplane — so matter what the ads said, I don't believe a man can fly!) I hate getting to and from airports, though, and since I'm a bit paranoid about missing flights I tend to allow a little extra time to get to the airport (just in case) and inevitably find myself hanging around for an hour or two before I can board my flight. Thank God for airport bookstores, coffee shops and, I guess, cocktail lounges. Getting home after a trip is always a hassle. I live in Connecticut, about seventy miles from N.Y. airports and whether I have my car or hop a limo, the ground trip home seems to tire me more than the flight.

I became more aware of these attitudes this summer as just about every weekend I traveled to a distant city to attend a comic convention, the most ambitious convention tour ever undertaken by DC and/or yours truly. With Sal Amendola (our Talent Coordinator) for company on every trip and various other DC luminaries on some of them we attended conventions at Anaheim, CA, New York, Philadelphia, PA, Ottawa, Canada, Chicago, IL, San Diego, CA, Orlando, FL, still to come are Boston, Hartford, Wichita and New York again. I missed Houston, though I was scheduled to go and a small show in the Washington, D.C. area was cancelled.

I'm writing this a few days before Labor Day with Bob Rosakie (and the typesetter) hovering anxiously in the background (copy was due September 1st ... late again!) A jumble of fleeting remembrances, impressions and random thoughts vie for attention.

I remember, —Sal Amendola calling my home from Houston to make sure I was still alive. He'd flown there from Washington, D.C. where he had just completed teaching a week-long seminar on drawing SF comics at the Smithsonian Institute. He expected to meet me at the Houston convention. A rumor spread on the

convention floor that I had collapsed, passed out or had been taken to the hospital in a state of exhaustion. All untrue, of course, but I was tired and not feeling well enough to take the trip. Still, Sal's concern (and the rumor-monger's) was touching.

—The wonderful reception afforded DC's 16MM sound film which was shown at least once each convention. It's about ten minutes long and after a brief retrospective, it outlines all the new and exciting comics coming from DC for the rest of '83 and some of '84.

—Having Murphy Anderson (and Mrs. "Murph") show up, unexpectedly, at many of the conventions. Murph has been away from comics for about 10 years while he handled the immense task of producing a monthly preventive maintenance magazine for the U.S. Army. He's finished with that and his byline and familiar style will be gracing the pages of DC Comics again! Welcome back, Murph.

—Meeting Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel at San Diego. We've met before, of course, and we didn't have too much time to talk this time but it's always good to meet Superman's creators.

—Chicago and San Diego which continue to be among the best attended and best organized cons around. (Although there was a massive room foul-up at Chicago this year, it was the hotel's fault.) Lotsa pros, lotsa fans and dealers at both.

—The Ottawa con held on a modern college campus. We slept in small, clean dorm rooms (Ye Gode! No TV!) Some pros thought that wasn't sophisticated enough, I guess, and opted for hotel accommodations nearby. Sal and I (the DC contingent) stayed and had fun! Sloshing beer with college guys made me feel young again ... Briefly.

—Talking to so many of our readers and fans. About comics in general and DC Comics in particular. Most of 'em thought comics today are more exciting than they've been in years.

—Wishing I could have talked to more.

—Grateful to be alive after being attacked (sort of) by about a half

dozen crazed DC writers upon my return to the hotel in San Diego. I was coming home from a nice dinner at a Mexican restaurant down at the harbor and these six loonies had concocted an idea for a new maxi-series and were looking for me to approve the idea. They charged at me as I entered the lobby and in exchange for sparing my life I gave them the go ahead — and the DC Challenge was born! (More on that later.)

—Talking with DC regulars and old friends Roy Thomas, Gerry Conway, Dan Jurgens, Mark Evanier, Dan Spiegel, Jerry Ordway, Mike Machlan, Jan Strnad, Don Newton, Steve Gerber and others (whose names I will remember the moment this goes to press) who live and work too far from the home office for me to see regularly.

—All those hotel rooms, all those restaurant meals, all those rented cars, all those cab rides. All those carefully collected receipts for my expense ~~statements~~.

—Talking comics with old friends Mike Friedrich (ol' Star* Reach) and Dee Skinn (Editor of *Warrior*, a top-notch British comic).

—Beating Marvel (by a nose!) at the Comics Fowl, a San Diego Con version of *The Family Feud*. They'll be after us next year, with blood in their eyes, at a re-match.

—The projector breaking down at Philadelphia about 2 minutes into our film and Sal Amendola and me having to do about 15 minutes of impromptu chatter and fielding questions from the audience while a new projector was found and set-up.

—The unprecedented steak 'n' eggs breakfast for attending pros given by the new guys on the block, Multi-Media conventions, at Philadelphia. Thanks, guys.

—The hotel itself at the aforementioned Multi-Media Con in Philly. Brand new and beautiful!

—Talking to aspiring writers and artists as Sal Amendola and I looked at their portfolios. So many reminded me of myself some thirty-odd years ago. Incidentally, we're being forced to temporarily shelve our talent search for a time. We've been overwhelmed by samples mailed to us and folk who have talked to us and showed us samples at conventions.

We're going to have to spend some time working closely with the talent that has surfaced and responding to all who have submitted samples. If you've thought of submitting, please hang on for a while as we dig out. We'll give you the go-ahead in this column as soon as all's clear.

—Seeing and chatting with our comic distributors all of whom I was lucky enough to meet at a meeting on the Warner's lot in L.A. earlier this year.

—Hearing the universally positive attitudes expressed by publishers, distributors, dealers and fans about the future of comics in this country.

Thank you and Good Afternoon.

pick



YOU'RE USING PRECIOUS
MAGIC FOR YOUR FLIGHT,
PRINCESS!

I'M AFRAID
WE LOST OUR
STEEDS!

THEN RIDE
WITH US--

--TO AMENITH'S
SIDE!



WE'VE BROKEN
THROUGH THE OUTER
PERIMETER!

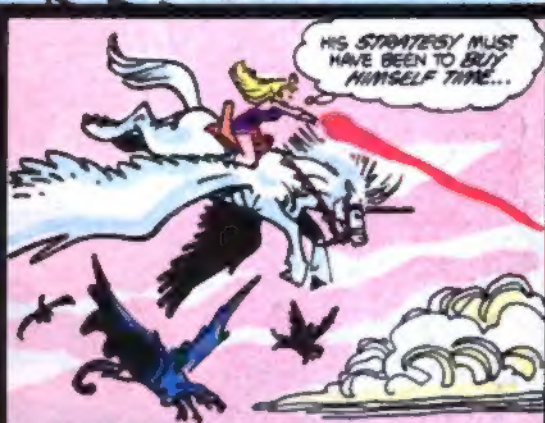
DARK OPAL PUT HIS
ARMOR REARMS THERE--LEAVING
THE FORTRESS ITSELF LESS
WELL PROTECTED...

AND HE HASN'T EVEN
SHOWN HIS FACE YET!



STAND FAST
FOR THE OPAL!

LET NO ONE PASS
ALIVE!



HIS STRATEGY MUST
HAVE BEEN TO BUY
HIMSELF TIME...



HE KNEW HIS SOLDIERS
COULDN'T STOP US!



BUT WHATEVER THE
TERRIBLE WELCOME--
WHATEVER TRAP
HE'S DEvised IN
THAT TIME...



...WE HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO ENTER IT!

WE'RE IN! NOW
FOLLOW ME AND STAY
CLOSE BEHIND!





DC Comics Inc.
925 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

Janette Kahn, President and Publisher
Dick Giordano, Vice Pres.-Executive Editor
Karen Berger, Editor
Tom Connor, Managing Editor
Pat Bostienne, Editorial Coordinator
Bob Rozakis, Production Manager
Joe Orlando, Vice Pres.-Editorial Director
Paul Levitz, Vice Pres.-Operations
Bruce Bialow, Marketing Director
Arthur Guitierrez, Treasurer

Dear Karen,

So far I must compliment you on the character of Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld, though I do wish you would introduce a new character with the birthstone Peridot. As you can guess, Peridot is my birthstone. I used to make Wonder Woman comics my only books, until I spied a comic book with Amethyst on the back of a flying unicorn. It looked good, so I bought it. Now I'm hooked. All I can say is, keep it going.

Joy Hunsberger, Age 11
P.O. Box 3206
Bethlehem, PA

According to various gemology sources, Sardonyx and Peridot are both mentioned as being the birthstone for August. Joy, we felt Sardonyx was a great name for a villain, so we chose it instead of Peridot.

As we all know, each royal house corresponds to a birthstone, and for those of you who don't know which character represents your birth-month—read and January - Garnet, February - Amethyst, March - Aquamarine, April - Diamond, May - Emerald, June - Moonstone, July - Ruby, August - Sardonyx, September - Sapphire, October - Opal, November - Topaz, December - Turquoise.

Pearl and Moonstone both are stones for June, as are Bloodstone and Aquamarine for the month of March.

Dear Ms. Berger,

Although I always read letters to the editor, I had not considered writing one until I read the dynamite issue #8 of AMETHYST.

On page 12, the bottom segment, 2nd panel, Lord Garnet makes the statement "...He hates me still from years gone by—and like all water signs, is ruled too much by feelings..." In the 3rd panel, Amethyst deduces his thinking in the vein of Earth Astrology. As a professional Astrologer, I would like to bring to your attention a correction regarding Garnet's statement. Yes, those notorious water signs, Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces, have indeed etched their trademark of being ruled by emotions—each in a different manner. The first portion of the quoted statement in reference to the Piscean Lord Aquamarine is inconsistent with Astrological materials. Let me offer to you two quotes from the textbook I utilize in teaching my Astrology classes (Isabel Hickey Astrology: A Cosmic Science)...

"Pisces have a great sense of compassion and sacrifice themselves in utter devotion for the redemption of the world." With this understanding of Pisces, and my being a very strong Pisces individual, I feel that Garnet's statement is not true to Lord Aquamarine's supposed sign characteristics. What would be more accurate is Scorpio's ... "strength, which too often becomes vindictiveness, jealousy, and resentment..." Scorpios have long been known for their ability to hold onto feelings, such as hate and resentment, for very long periods of time. A true Pisces is understanding and compassionate in that they can forgive, perhaps, too much for their own good. That unredeemed Scorpio holds onto all that resentment and looks for ways to seek revenge.

Aside from that error, I wish to point out how refreshing it is to read a fine story line such as this! Thank you.

In Light,
Neomi Seedberg Boughton
2608 Galpin #214
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Thanks very much for your information, Neomi. As for Lord Aquamarine's grudge against Lord Garnet, let's just say that Aquamarine's an uncharacteristic Piscean. He thinks that his feelings are justified, but we're not at liberty to reveal the reason behind all this—now.

Dear Berger, Mishkin, Cohn, Colon, Costanza, & Zukos,

Each month I get a shipment of approximately 60-70 comics, fanzines, etc., all at one time in one box. Starting about 6 months ago I started picking through the batch to find one comic. One comic I want to read first and no other. That comic has been Amethyst again and again, and I imagine, over the next four months, that will continue. This comic comes together so beautifully I honestly can barely wait between issues. You folks have created another world of exciting fantasy not unlike Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Moorcock, and probably others I just can't think of at the moment.

First Light (#8) was really marvelous (oops, wrong word, I suppose). I really, really enjoyed each and every panel, word, color, etc. I have mixed feelings about the book continuing after the 12th issue. I don't want it to just stop. And yet, too often a good concept becomes mundane as it tries to meet a monthly

schedule and maintain the same level of excitement. I would almost rather the series end than have it continue into mediocrity. I'm sure sales have already made the decision for you to continue and you probably feel you could handle the series and maintain the level it has reached so far. I can only hope so. I'm a serious fan, and a good comic to me is a feeling I can get from nothing else in my life. In the meantime, keep up the good work, and I'll be here to watch and write.

J. Frank Dennis, Agent
731 N. Perry St. Joselyn
Pontiac, MN 48058

Dear Dan, Gary, Ernie, John, Tom, and Karen,

For various reasons, I've had difficulty getting ahold of issues in your maxi-series, with the result that I ended up reading #'s 2-8 right after one another. Now, while it was frustrating to have to go without Amethyst for those many months, it was a definite treat to read seven in a row! The only problem is that now I'm really primed for #9 but will have to wait the standard one month for it.

I must echo the sentiments of many others and say that Ernie Colon's work on this series has been truly outstanding. His art has been truly distinctive and totally appropriate to the atmosphere of the situation. In these days, when a certain style of comic book art seems to be in vogue, I hope that Ernie gets the wide accolades that he deserves to much.

This is not to say that Dan and Gary's scripting has taken a backseat—by no means. (In fact, the art and script have complemented each other very well.) In Gemworld, you have created a truly different society within its own unique framework. The individuals are enough like us that we can identify and empathize with them, but their social structure is different enough to make it exotic to us—and to make it an interesting question as to how the people will act and react within its constraints. I must also congratulate you on the non-sexist nature of Gemworld (for instance, the lines of royal succession are not male-dominated) and for making this a natural-seeming state of affairs.

It is nice to hear that this series is successful enough to warrant serious consideration to continuing it in one form or another. But, despite how much I like the series and the temptation of wanting more of it, I wonder if this is a

good idea. Is this not perhaps defeating the very purpose of the maxi-series? If continuance becomes a possibility, will not future maxi-series of other concepts be structured to be open-ended? I guess what I'm saying is that any sequel must be handled very carefully, for while a sequel can be worthwhile, even better than the original, it is usually a huge disappointment (as in countless books and movies).

Yours truly,
"T.M. Maple"

You bring up a very good point in your letter, T.M., which much deserves to be talked about here. Maxi-series are specifically structured to tell a self-contained story over a given number of issues, with each story serving as a chapter in that saga. The Amethyst maxi-series was constructed as an entire unit and was definitely not structured to be open-ended.

But we feel that Amethyst as a concept is so strong and is so rich with potential story lines, that if we do decide to do a sequel, we feel that it will be justified, because the Amethyst character is very realized and, like the Oz stories, there are lots of Gemworld tales to be told. If there is an Amethyst sequel, I don't think that future unlimited series are going to be constructed open-ended with a sequel in mind, for exactly the reason you mention—the creative team does not want to defeat the purpose of the maxi-series.

We didn't realize the potential of the Amethyst concept at onset, and if we did, maybe we wouldn't have decided to do a limited series. Who can say. But, we can say that if we produce a sequel, it will undoubtedly be with the utmost care and creative integrity.

We learned the Gemworld's true origin in issue #8. Here's someone else's version ... which, I might add, is a very good one.

Once upon a time Lord and Lady Citrina reigned over the twelve nations of Gemworld. At the time the only mystic jewel was the Citrine, which had been found by a lonely young couple. At that moment Lord and Lady Citrina were born.

With their newfound power the couple quickly united the warring nations of Gemworld. Everyone loved and respected Lord and Lady Citrina. Not a single royal house opposed them. However, their downfall had been written long ago, for absolute power corrupts absolutely. Fifteen years after the start of his reign, Lord Citrina became corrupted by the power of the gem. If Lady Citrina had not stopped him, he would have destroyed the Gemworld.

Much to her despair Lady Citrina found she could not destroy the Citrine. She then decided to diminish the gem's power by transferring most of it into the powerless jewels of the twelve Royal Houses. Lady Citrina took it upon herself to teach every Royal Family how to cope

with their newfound power, thereby becoming the Witch-Mother of Gemworld.

Once, while in deep meditation, Citrina saw a brief glimpse of Gemworld's future. In the dream she saw the Gemworld under the heel of an evil dictator. In order to halt this vision the leaders decided it was best that only one Family rule the planet. However, they could not decide who it would be. Finally Citrina proposed whoever married her daughter, Princess Citrina, would become the Lord of Gemworld.

Ten years after the marriage of Princess Citrina to Prince Amethyst and one year after the birth of their child, the prophecy was fulfilled. As the forces of Opal battered at the gates of Castle Amethyst, the salvation of Gemworld was being delivered to safety. After a long argument, it was decided that Lord Amethyst and Citrina would give up their lives in order to delay the hordes of Opal. Meanwhile, Lady Amethyst gave her daughter to the Winstons, whose son had just been stolen by the minion of Opal. She then returned home disguised as the Witch-Mother to await the arrival of Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld.

Patrick Minichiello
17 Green St. Apt. 9
Milford, MA 01757

Dear Amethyst Crew,

You know, when I first read the beginning chapters of AMETHYST, I just thought it would be another one of those run - of - the - mill - girl - turns - into - powerful - princess - against - powerful - evil - antagonist - whose - son - turns - against - him - but - whose - adopted - son - looks - like - he's - with - him - but - really - isn't - while - the - original - son - rallies - siblings - to - kill - him - while - powerful - princess - falls - in - love - with - a - prince - who's - supposed - to - be - married - to - another - evil - princess - but - doesn't - while - powerful - princess's - friend - has - had - feud - with - another - king - while - a - powerful - group - of - priests - get - killed - by - friends - of - evil - antagonist - but - one - lives - to - save - the - princess - prince - and - princess's - friend - story, but was I ever wrong! The plot is much more complicated than I expected! Not to mention the AWESOME art, AWESOME story line, and AWESOME detail. (Am I getting through to you okay?)

Anyways, you're doing a great job and keep up the great work, guys! (and one gal)

Purple Hearts,
Tom Huang
1706 Blackfoot
Fremont, CA 94538

Dear Karen,

I'd be perfectly happy to tell Jeff Miller (#7) about Fawna. Reading over the issues, I noticed Fawna was smiling and it bugged me. About a week later I re-read the preview. Then it all came together. Fawna was Dark Opal's spy! Fantastic.

Speaking of fantastic, that is what this

comic is. Ernie, your art work is fabulous. The colors are brilliant. I guess what I love the most is the detail. The mountains which have faces, the trees, everything! Amethyst's flying unicorn is nothing short of terrific!

This is my first letter. I really hope you read it, but I don't expect you to print it. After all, I'm only 14. I love to draw, especially unicorns, but what you (Ernie) have been doing is unbelievable. I hope to be, as good as this someday.

By the way, I am a Piscean Amethyst. Issue #8 was great and I'm eagerly waiting for more. Please, don't let Amethyst fade away. Do another maxi-series. I do agree that a regular comic would be tedious.

Could I suggest a name for Amethyst's unicorn? Avvalon. It sounds so pretty.

Power to the Purple Throne.

Noel Royer
2515 Switzer
Jennings, MO 63136

Avvalon's a pretty good name, Noel, and if anyone else has suggestions for the unicorn's name, we'd love to hear from you.

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for making Amethyst one of the funniest books to read. Throughout the entire eight-issue-plus run, the pace has not slowed down a bit. Every time a scene starts to get boring, you change scenes or add something to the current scene. In fact, Amethyst reads more like a soap opera than a comic, and while I hate it in the Teen Titans or X-Men, it's perfect for this.

Gemworld is a whole new dimension of characters and situations that can be used. If there is a second maxi-series or (please) a regular series or even a graphic novel, hopefully it can focus more on Gemworld itself.

Keep up the great work.

Mike Grabowski
119 Rutherford
Redwood City, CA 94061

Dear DC,

I commend you on your great work on Amethyst. Throughout my life I have grown up with comics here and there, but I have enjoyed only two, The Legion of Super-heroes and The New Teen Titans. Only recently I gained another favorite, Amethyst. This is a really great comic and I love everything about it. Please keep up the magnificent work!

Sincerely,
Alyssa Park
Hilo, HI 96720

NEXT MONTH: THE FINAL CONFRONTATION IS HERE! AMETHYST MEETS DARK OPAL IN THE ULTIMATE, DECIDING BATTLE! WILL OUR PRINCESS SAVE THE GEMWORLD FROM THE EVIL LORD? DON'T MISS AMETHYST #12, ON SALE NEXT MONTH!